

wish to do so, will be heard following those scheduled. The hearing will end after all persons scheduled to comment and persons present in the audience who wish to comment have been heard.

#### *Public Meeting*

If only one person requests an opportunity to comment at a hearing, a public meeting, rather than a public hearing, may be held. Persons wishing to meet with OSM representatives to discuss the proposed amendments may request a meeting at the OSM Lexington Field Office listed under **ADDRESSES** by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All such meetings will be open to the public and, if possible, notices of meetings will be posted in advance at the locations listed under **ADDRESSES**. A written summary of each meeting will be made a part of the Administrative Record.

#### **IV. Procedural Determinations**

##### *Executive Order 12866*

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

##### *Executive Order 12778*

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each such program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15 and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR Parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

##### *National Environmental Policy Act*

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA [30 U.S.C. 1292(d)] provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

##### *Paperwork Reduction Act*

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

##### *Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The Department of the Interior has determined that his rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon corresponding Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the corresponding Federal regulations.

##### **List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 917**

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: February 9, 1995.

**Tim L. Dieringer,**

*Acting Assistant Director, Eastern Support Center.*

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##### **30 CFR Part 935**

[OH-234; Amendment Number 63R]

##### **Ohio Regulatory and AML Programs; Reduction and Reorganization of Engineering Staff**

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** OSM is reopening the public comment period for a proposed amendment to the Ohio regulatory program and AML program (hereinafter referred to as the Ohio programs) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This amendment is intended to reduce and reorganize the engineering staff of the Ohio programs in response to recent drops in Ohio coal production. Ohio has resubmitted this amendment in response to OSM's deferral of its

decision on the engineering portion of Ohio's overall staffing proposal in the previous submissions of this program amendment.

This document sets forth the times and locations that the Ohio programs and the proposed amendments to those programs will be available for public inspection, the comment period during which interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed amendments, and the procedures that will be followed regarding the public hearing, if one is requested.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 4:00 p.m., e.s.t., on March 20, 1995. If requested, a public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held at 1:00 p.m., e.s.t., on March 14, 1995. Requests to present oral testimony at the hearing must be received on or before 4:00 p.m., e.s.t., on March 6, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests to testify at the hearing should be mailed or hand-delivered to Mr. Robert H. Mooney, Acting Director, Columbus Field Office, at the address listed below.

Copies of the Ohio programs, the proposed amendments, and all written comments received in response to this document will be available for public review at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Each requester may receive one free copy of the proposed amendments by contacting OSM's Columbus Field Office.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Columbus Field Office, 4480 Refugee Road, Suite 201, Columbus, Ohio 43232, Telephone: (614) 886-0578

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation, 1855 Fountain Square Court, Building H-3, Columbus, Ohio 43224, Telephone: (614) 265-6675.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert H. Mooney, Acting Director, Columbus Field Office, (614) 886-0578.

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background of the Ohio Program**

On August 16, 1982, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Ohio programs. Information on the general background of the Ohio program submissions, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and a detailed explanation of the conditions of approval of the Ohio programs, can be found in the August 10, 1982, **Federal Register** (47 FR 34688). Subsequent actions concerning

the conditions of approval and program amendments are identified at 30 CFR 935.11, 935.12, 935.15, and 935.16.

## II. Discussion of the Proposed Amendments

By letter dated March 15, 1993 (Administrative Record No. OH-1845), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation (Ohio) submitted proposed Program Amendment Number 63 (PA 63). In that submission, Ohio proposed to reduce the staff of the Ohio programs by abolishing 28 existing positions. Ohio also proposed to reorganize the remaining staff positions to assume the existing job duties. The amendment contained no proposed revisions to Ohio's coal mining law in the Ohio Revised Code or coal mining rules in the Ohio Administrative Code.

OSM announced receipt of the proposed amendment in the April 8, 1993, **Federal Register** (58 FR 18185), and, in the same document, opened the public comment period and provided an opportunity for a public hearing on the adequacy of the proposed amendment. The public comment period closed on May 10, 1993.

OSM and Ohio staff met on May 20, 1993, to discuss OSM's preliminary concerns and questions about PA 63. By letter dated June 16, 1993 (Administrative Record No. OH-1890), Ohio submitted additional information in response to those OSM concerns and questions. Through an oversight, OSM did not reopen the public comment period at that time.

Subsequently, by letter dated November 2, 1993 (Administrative Record No. OH-1948), OSM formally provided Ohio with its questions and comments on the March 15 and June 16, 1993, submissions of PA 63. By letter dated December 6, 1993 (Administrative Record No. OH-1971), Ohio provided its responses to OSM's November 2, 1993, questions and comments.

OSM announced receipt of Ohio's December 6, 1993, response in the January 21, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 3325), and, in the same document, opened the public comment period and provided an opportunity for a public hearing on the adequacy of the proposed amendment. The public comment period closed on February 7, 1994.

During its review of Ohio's December 6, 1993, response, OSM identified two concerns regarding engineering practices and engineering workload which OSM staff communicated to the State during a meeting held on April 20, 1994 (Administrative Record No. OH-2012). Ohio responded in a letter dated April 21, 1994 (Administrative Record

No. OH-2014), with additional information on both issues. OSM announced receipt of this additional information, along with the explanatory information submitted by Ohio on June 16, 1993, and reopened the comment period for PA 63 in the June 9, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 29748). The public comment period closed on June 24, 1994.

In the September 1, 1994, **Federal Register** (59 FR 45206), the Director of OSM partially approved PA 63 but deferred his decision on the engineering portions of the amendment. The Director based this decision on Ohio's April 21, 1994, letter in which Ohio indicated that the reorganization of its engineering staff was still underway. Ohio stated that the changes to its engineering staff proposed by Ohio in the 1993 submissions of PA 63 no longer accurately reflected Ohio's proposed engineering structure. Ohio was still analyzing the workload and functions of its engineering staff. Ohio stated that when it has finalized its proposed engineering staff configuration, Ohio would resubmit that staff configuration to OSM for review and approval.

On November 29, 1994, OSM and Ohio staff met to discuss Ohio's progress with reorganizing its engineering staff (Administrative Record No. OH-2071). OSM and Ohio staff met again on December 15, 1994 (Administrative Record No. OH-2074), at which time Ohio provided several documents describing Ohio's projection of the engineering resources needed to support its regulatory program. On December 30, 1994, Ohio provided a similar analysis of the needs of its AML program (Administrative Record No. OH-2089). On January 23, 1995 (Administrative Record No. OH-2084), OSM provided comments to Ohio on these engineering work projections.

By letter dated February 2, 1995 (Administrative Record No. OH-2088), Ohio submitted its revised engineering staff configuration as Program Amendment Number 63 Revised (PA 63R). In this submission, Ohio is proposing to reduce the engineering staff of the Ohio regulatory and AML programs down to 10.4 full-time positions by abolishing 3.6 of the 14 engineering positions which supported those programs prior to PA 63. As with the previous submissions of PA 63, PA 63R contains no proposed revisions to Ohio's coal mining law in the Ohio Revised Code or coal mining rules in the Ohio Administrative Code.

The five major parts of Ohio's February 2, 1995, submission of PA 63R are described briefly below:

### (1) Description and Justification of Engineering Staff Actions

Ohio is proposing to have a total of 3.2 full-time engineering staff positions dedicated to its regulatory program. These 3.2 positions will be made up of varying percentages of the work hours of 8 employees: 25 percent of 1 Central Office Engineer, 50 percent of 2 Field Engineers, 25 percent of 1 Field Engineer, 20 percent of 1 Surveyor, and 50 percent of 3 Engineering Specialists. This staffing level represents a reduction of 0.8 full-time staff positions from the 4.0 regulatory engineering positions that existed prior to PA 63.

Ohio is proposing to have a total of 7.2 full-time engineering staff positions dedicated to its AML program. These 7.2 positions will be made up of varying percentages of the work hours of 11 employees: 100, 70, and 50 percents of 3 Central Office Engineers, respectively; 65 percent of 1 Field Engineer; 45 percent of 2 Field Engineers; 80 percent of 1 Surveyors; 50 percent of 3 Engineering Specialists; and 100 percent of 1 Drafting Technician. This staffing level represents a reduction of 2.8 full-time staff positions from the 10.0 AML engineering positions that existed prior to PA 63.

As justification for these engineering staff changes, Ohio has submitted a narrative explaining its staffing proposal and summarizing the results of an engineering workload analysis conducted by Ohio with OSM assistance. Ohio has also stated its plans to conduct on-going assessment of any additional engineering support needed by its regulatory and AML programs.

### (2) Proposed Table of Organization for Engineering Staff

Ohio has submitted a proposed table of organization dated January 1995 which shows the proposed 10.4 engineering staff positions.

### (3) Proposed Position Description for Engineering Specialists

Ohio has submitted a proposed Position Description for the three Engineering Specialist positions which it plans to create to provide technical assistance to its Central Office and Field Engineers. Ohio has provided an explanation of the need for and responsibilities of these positions in the narrative portion of PA 63R.

### (4) Personnel Table

Ohio has submitted a table showing how the work percentages of its 10.4 engineering staff positions will be distributed between Ohio's regulatory and AML programs.

*(5) Documents Included by Reference*

Following the narrative portion of PA 63R, Ohio has listed eight documents which it considers to be attachments to PA 63R and which include the table of organization, position description, and personnel table listed above. Ohio provided the other five documents to OSM on December 15, 1994 (Administrative Record No. OH-2074); Regulatory Workload Assessment, Regulatory Workload: Geographic Distribution-1993, Regulatory Work Logs-1993, Regulatory ARP Logs-1993) and on December 30, 1994 (Administrative Record No. OH-2089; AML Workload Analysis). Ohio is including these Administrative Record documents in PA 63R by reference.

**III. Public Comment Procedures**

In accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), OSM is now seeking comment on whether the amendments proposed by Ohio satisfy the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If the amendments are deemed adequate, they will become part of the Ohio programs.

*Written Comments*

Written comments should be specific, pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking, and include explanations in support of the commenter's recommendations. Comments received after the time indicated under **DATES** or at locations other than the Columbus Field Office will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the Administrative Record.

*Public Hearing*

Persons wishing to comment at the public hearing should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** by 4:00 p.m., E.S.T., on March 6, 1995. If no one requests an opportunity to comment at a public hearing, the hearing will not be held. Any disabled individual who has need for a special accommodation to attend a public hearing should contact the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Filing of a written statement at the time of the hearing is requested as it will greatly assist the transcriber. Submission of written statements in advance of the hearing will allow OSM officials to prepare adequate responses and appropriate questions.

The public hearing will continue on the specified date until all persons scheduled to comment have been heard. Persons in the audience who have not been scheduled to comment and who wish to do so will be heard following

those scheduled. The hearing will end after all persons scheduled to comment and persons present in the audience who wish to comment have been heard.

*Public Meeting*

If only one person requests an opportunity to comment at a hearing, a public meeting, rather than a public hearing, may be held. Persons wishing to meet with OSM representatives to discuss the proposed amendments may request a meeting at the Columbus Field Office by contracting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All such meetings shall be open to the public and, if possible, notices of the meetings will be posted at the locations listed under **ADDRESSES**. A written summary of each public meeting will be made a part of the Administrative Record.

**IV. Procedural Determinations***Executive Order 12866*

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

*A. Ohio Regulatory Program**Executive Order 12778*

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each such program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15 and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

*National Environmental Policy Act*

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA [30 U.S.C. 1292(d)] provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National

Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

*Paperwork Reduction Act*

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

*Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon corresponding Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the corresponding Federal regulations.

*B. Ohio AML Program**Executive Order 12778*

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof since each such plan is drafted and adopted by a specific State or Tribe, not by OSM. Decisions on proposed State and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof submitted by a State or Tribe are based on a determination of whether the submittal meets the requirements of Title IV of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1231-1243) and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR parts 884 and 888.

*National Environmental Policy Act*

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since agency decisions on proposed State and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof are categorically excluded from compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332) by the Manual of the Department of the Interior [516 DM 6, appendix 8, paragraph 8.4B(29)].

**Paperwork Reduction Act**

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*

**Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon corresponding Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions in the analyses for the corresponding Federal regulations.

**List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 935**

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: February 9, 1995.

**Tim L. Dieringer,**

*Acting Assistant Director, Eastern Support Center.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 638**

[I.D. 020795A]

**Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico; Public Hearings on Draft Amendment 3**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene two public hearings on Draft Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral and Coral Reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. Amendment 3 would close the exclusive economic zone off the Florida Panhandle to live rock harvest, establish an annual commercial live rock harvest quota in the Gulf of Mexico, revise trip limits, define an allowable amount of base rock for octocoral, and consider allowing a personal use harvest limit in the Gulf.

**DATES:** Written comments on Draft Amendment 3 will be accepted until March 8, 1995. The hearings are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. as follows:

1. Wednesday, March 1, 1995, in Tampa, FL

2. Thursday, March 2, 1995, in Destin, FL

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to, and copies of the Draft amendment are available from Mr. Terrance R. Leary, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609; FAX: 813-225-7015.

The hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. Tampa, FL—Ramada Airport Hotel, 5303 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33609

2. Destin, FL—Holiday Inn, 1020 Highway 98 East, Destin, FL 32540

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terrance R. Leary, Fishery Biologist, 813-228-2815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Julie Krebs (see **ADDRESSES**) by February 22, 1995.

Dated: February 13, 1995.

**David S. Crestin,**

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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